

CLAIMS

1. A method of conditioning an activated sludge in a membrane biological reactor comprising  
 (i) adding to the activated sludge an effective amount of at least one water soluble cationic  
 polymer to form a mixture of water and coagulated and flocculated suspended solids; and  
 5 (ii) separating the coagulated and flocculated suspended solids from the water by filtering  
 through an ultrafiltration or microfiltration membrane.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the water soluble cationic polymer has a molecular weight of  
 about 10,000 to about 2,000,000.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the water soluble cationic polymer has a cationic charge of at  
 least 70 mole percent.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the water soluble cationic polymer is a polymer of  
 15 (meth)acrylamide and one or more cationic monomers selected from diallyldimethylammonium  
 chloride, dimethylaminoethylacrylate methyl chloride quaternary salt,  
 dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate methyl chloride quaternary salt and dimethylaminoethylacrylate  
 benzyl chloride quaternary salt.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein the water soluble cationic polymer is  
 20 diallyldimethylammonium chloride/acryamide copolymer.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the water soluble cationic polymer has a cationic charge of  
 100 mole percent.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the water soluble cationic polymer is selected from the group consisting of *polydiallyldimethylammonium chloride*, polyethyleneimine, polyepiamine, polyepiamine crosslinked with ammonia or ethylenediamine, condensation polymer of ethylenedichloride and ammonia, condensation polymer of triethanolamine and tall oil fatty acid, poly(dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate sulfuric acid salt), poly(dimethylaminoethylacrylate methyl chloride quaternary salt).